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ABSTRACT

This document focuses on the mission, goals, and accomplishments of the Milken Exchange on Education Technology, an organization that is dedicated to creating a national agenda to advance innovative and effective uses of learning technology in elementary and secondary schools. The following key questions related to learning technology are outlined: (1) What does it mean to be "educated" in today's complex, digital age? (2) What do technology and telecommunications bring to the learning process? (3) What conditions are essential to the effective use of technology for learning? (4) What new research and development is needed to guide exemplary practice? and (5) What can the public expect in return for its investment in learning technology? A unique partnership between the school, local government, business community in Greenbrier (Arkansas) is briefly described. Five strategies employed by the Milken Exchange are highlighted, including examples of activities in each area: increasing public awareness; advancing public policy; supporting new designs for teaching and learning; promoting continuous improvement through planning; and informing practice through research. National advisory committee members are listed. (AEF)

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ED 430 535

ACCELERATING A NATIONAL AGENDA

FOR TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

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Milken EXCHANGE on education technology

The Milken Exchange on

Education Technology

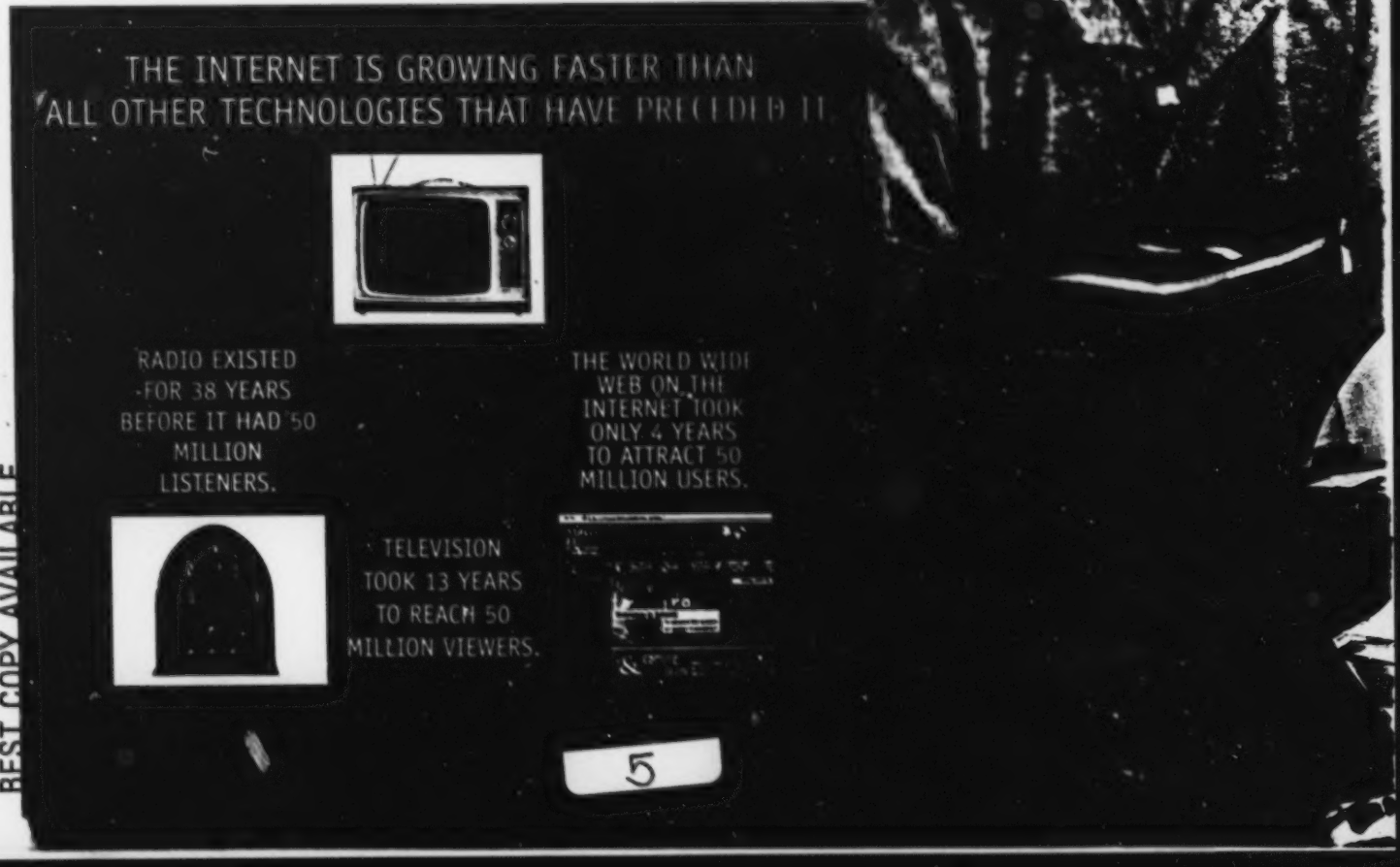
was launched as a way of formalizing and extending our years of effort to accelerate the responsible integration of learning technology into education. We are dedicated to working with others to create a national agenda that, as one of its goals, seeks to close the opportunity divide in this country so that no child lacks the skills necessary for success in the digital age.

The challenge confronting us is not whether technology has a role in today's classrooms, but rather how to put into place the essential conditions that will make these tools truly effective in improving student performance.

For it is our experience and belief that technology—properly managed and applied—has the potential to restore rigor to children's learning, to rebuild public confidence in American education, and to help ensure that the equality of opportunity in which we pride ourselves as a nation has meaning.

Lowell Milken,
President and Co-Founder
Milken Family Foundation

[redacted] youngsters who enter the classr
of today have never known a world wi
global communications, space travel
ital entertainment. They need an e
that successfully prepares them to li
and work in today's complex, digital
requires schools to intelligently and
fully incorporate technology into lea


THE INTERNET IS GROWING FASTER THAN
ALL OTHER TECHNOLOGIES THAT HAVE PRECEDED IT
RADIO EXISTED FOR 38 YEARS BEFORE IT HAD 50 MILLION LISTENERS.
TELEVISION TOOK 13 YEARS TO REACH 50 MILLION VIEWERS.
THE WORLD WIDE WEB ON THE INTERNET TOOK ONLY 4 YEARS TO ATTRACT 50 MILLION USERS.
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Learners are connecting to the real world through technology....

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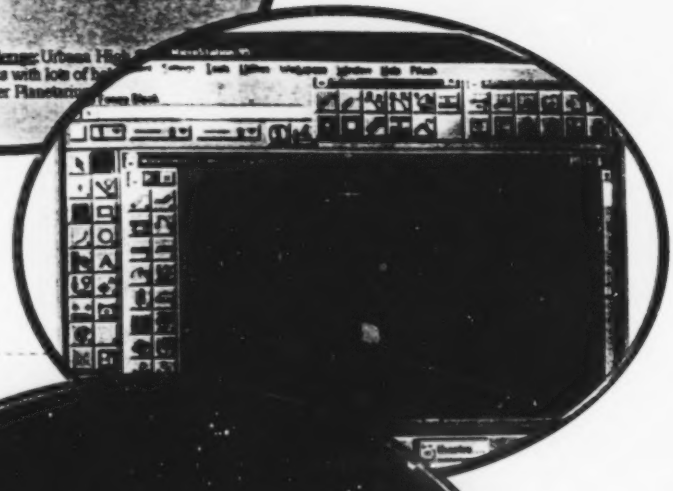

analyzing

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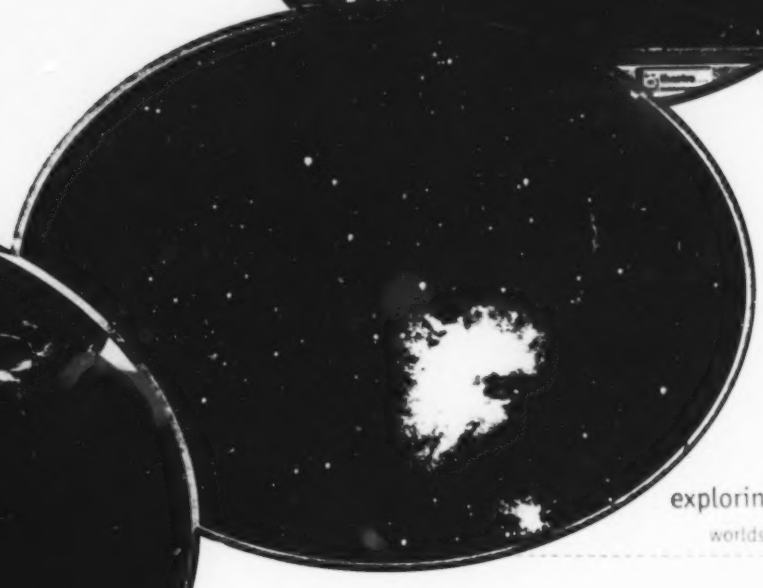

exploring

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contributing

valuable work.

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This year the nation is investing $5 billion in learning technology for elementary and secondary schools. While this is less than 2% of the annual education budget, it's a significant public investment and warrants careful consideration of the following questions:

- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "EDUCATED" IN TODAY'S COMPLEX, DIGITAL AGE?
- WHAT DO TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRING TO THE LEARNING PROCESS?
- WHAT CONDITIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE EFFECTIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING?
- WHAT NEW RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IS NEEDED TO GUIDE EXEMPLARY PRACTICE?
- WHAT CAN THE PUBLIC EXPECT IN RETURN FOR ITS INVESTMENT IN LEARNING TECHNOLOGY?

In accelerating a national agenda for learning technology, the Milken Exchange is working with national partners to find optimum solutions to these and other key questions. The search is on for key policy levers, change strategies, research directions, and frameworks that, together, transform today's education system into tomorrow's high performance learning system for all students.

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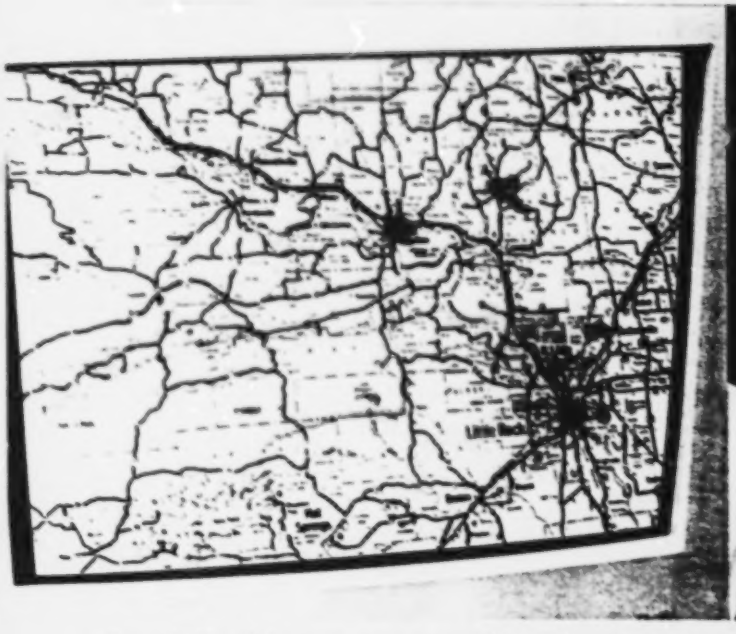
A NEW SCHOOL



Greenbrier, Arkansas may seem like an unusual place to catch a glimpse of the future, but the high school students in this small Southern town are being primed for life in the 21st century. In a unique partnership between the school, the local government and the business community, Greenbrier's students are developing their "intellectual capital" by combining their technology skills with their academic program in the service of the local community. One team of students, for example, is using the Internet to access digital maps created by satellites positioned around the globe in their study of geometry and geography. They are using these maps to determine the best locations for the placement of sirens to warn the community of approaching tornadoes. Another group of students combines digital satellite maps with city and county maps to create a global information system for use by the police, fire and water departments. Once their projects are complete, they will be taking their recommendations to the City Council and city architects for consideration.

It is somewhat advanced work, but the students are up to the task. First, they must learn to adjust the coordinates of the digital maps, which are deliberately skewed by the government for security reasons. Next, they must integrate two different digital mapping systems and translate this high-tech information into practical applications for city workers.

These projects are not only designed to teach students how to use technology, they are also intended to provide intensive learning situations in which students combine education with high technology and community stewardship. Even while the students learn, they are serving as the city's systems analysts and programmers, increasing the city's productivity, efficiency and safety.

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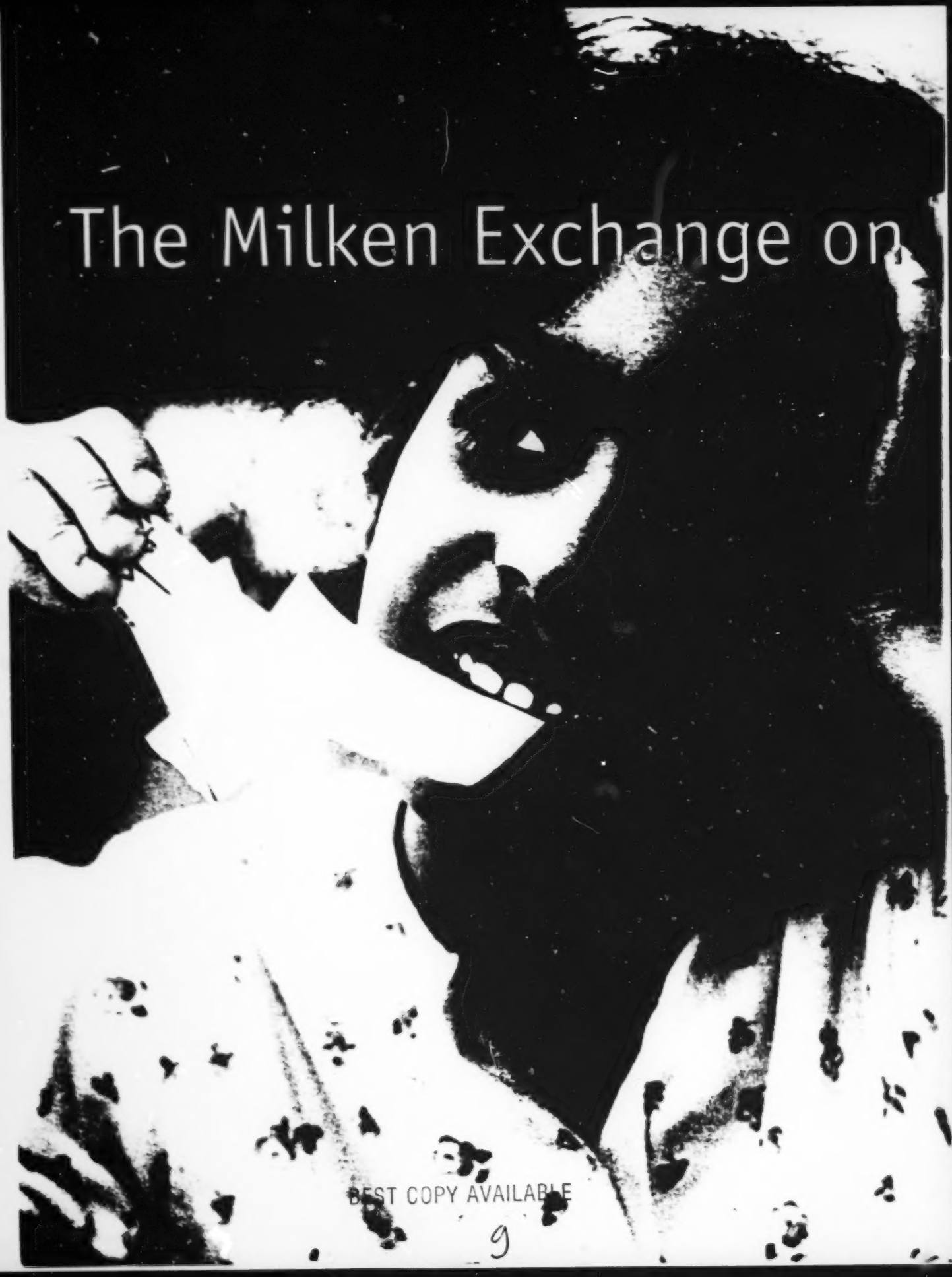
The Milken Exchange on



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Education Technology

is advancing innovative and effective uses of learning technology in elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

THE MILKEN EXCHANGE EMPLOYS FIVE STRATEGIES IN PURSUING THIS GOAL:

- **INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS**
- **ADVANCING PUBLIC POLICY**
- **SUPPORTING NEW DESIGNS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING**
- **PROMOTING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT THROUGH PLANNING**
- **INFORMING PRACTICE THROUGH RESEARCH**

These strategies support educators, legislators, state agencies and communities in using technology to transform their schools into vibrant, learning environments. The Milken Exchange provides information and insights into emerging issues, policy models, professional development strategies, tools for gauging progress and public opinion research.

The Milken Exchange is an initiative of the Milken Family Foundation, and builds on the Foundation's years of work with the nearly 1,200 recipients of its Milken Educator Award. Recognized as among the most outstanding educators in the country, many of these Milken Educators are also living examples of the power and potential of technology as a tool for dramatically improving and enriching student performance.

Increasing Public Awareness

Recognizing that public awareness is an essential factor in stimulating interest in, and fostering understanding of, education technology, the Milken Exchange seeks to inform educators, parents and the public about technology in the classroom. The Milken Exchange also monitors public attitudes about technology through public opinion polls and focus groups.

One of the Milken Exchange's first efforts in this regard was the release of the most extensive public opinion survey ever conducted on education technology. Conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., the survey explored the attitudes of students, teachers and the public about the role of computers in U.S. classrooms.

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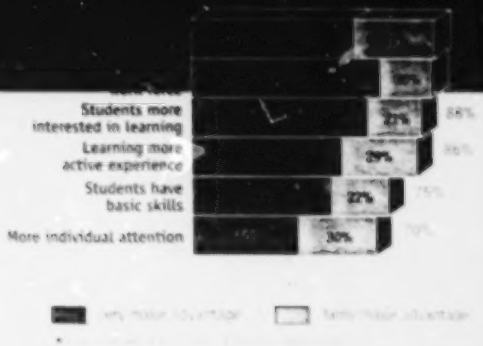
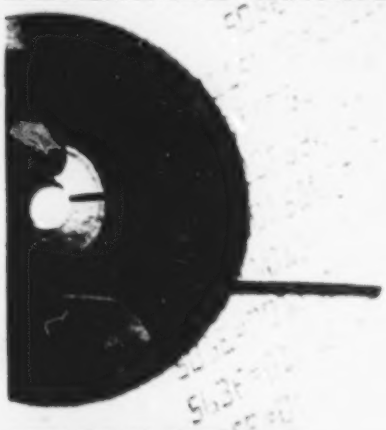
EDUCATION WE





The poll found that the American electorate is strongly supportive of technology in schools and is concerned that the schools aren't moving fast enough in bringing technology to learning.

The Milken Exchange plans to continue its ongoing exploration into public attitudes with the release of annual national public opinion polls each spring.

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In Collaboration With the Milken Exchange on Education Technology

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Each fall the Milken Exchange on Education Technology and Education Week *release* Technology Counts, *a state-by-state technology progress report. This is the premier national report on the progress of American schools in meeting the learning demands of the digital age.*

Technology Counts *documents the challenges facing policymakers and educators in their efforts to enrich student learning through the effective use of technology, and it highlights models of success that provide all with a sense of the promise and potential of education technology.*

The report has generated interest in and debate on education technology by the public, the media and stakeholders in education. Most importantly, it brings definition and hard facts to the dialogue, charting the state of learning technology across the 50 states, and providing a benchmark by which we can measure future progress.

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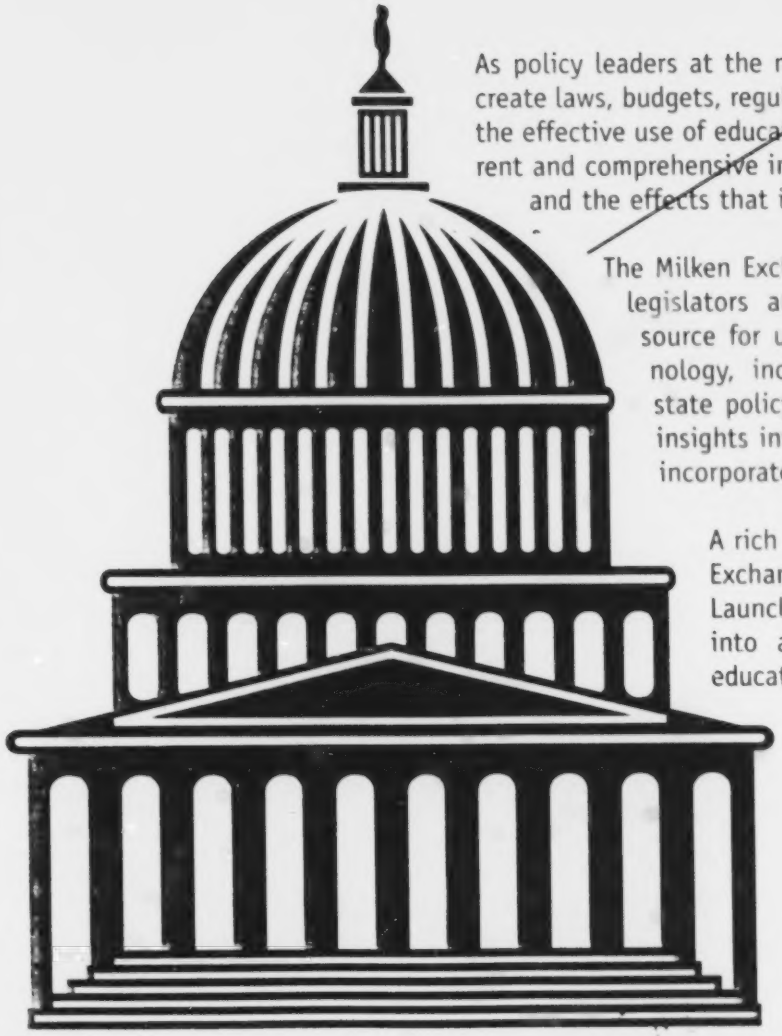
Advancing Public Policy

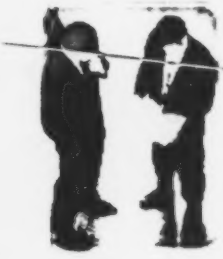


As policy leaders at the national, state and local levels attempt to create laws, budgets, regulations, policies and programs that advance the effective use of education technology, they require the most current and comprehensive information on how technology can be used and the effects that it has on all aspects of education.

The Milken Exchange advances public policy by providing legislators and government leaders with a one-stop source for up-to-date information on education technology, including the latest research, national and state policy agendas, national progress updates, and insights into how technology can most effectively be incorporated into education systems at all levels.

A rich resource for such information is the Milken Exchange's Web site (www.milkenexchange.org). Launched in late 1997, the Web site has evolved into a premier site for information regarding education technology, providing a dynamic, interactive knowledge base on K-12 learning technology, including the latest news on the E-rate, the top reasons to consider investing in technology in schools, policy models designed to drive wise investments of public funds and an examination of the changes needed in the education system to maximize the benefits of technology.

The Milken Exchange provides a forum for unique insights into the design
sound public policy for education technology. Here, national, state and loc
makers access a host of resources and join colleagues in intelligently gu
redesign of American schools to optimize learning in a digital age.



Policy COUNT

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Technology Programs and Act

The Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference each spring represents a unique opportunity for policymakers to gain knowledge and insights into education technology issues. Bringing educational, political, and business perspectives together within a single forum has contributed to the launching of significant state initiatives in support of K-12 education technology.

The Milken Exchange convenes the technology directors from the state education agencies together with other national technology leaders each fall and spring to exchange information, discuss and debate solutions to significant challenges, and collaboratively develop products, models and frameworks that positively impact educators in states across the country. An example of such a product is the widely distributed publication *Learning in a Digital Age: Insights into the Issues, The Skills Students Need for Technological Fluency* by Kathleen Fulton.

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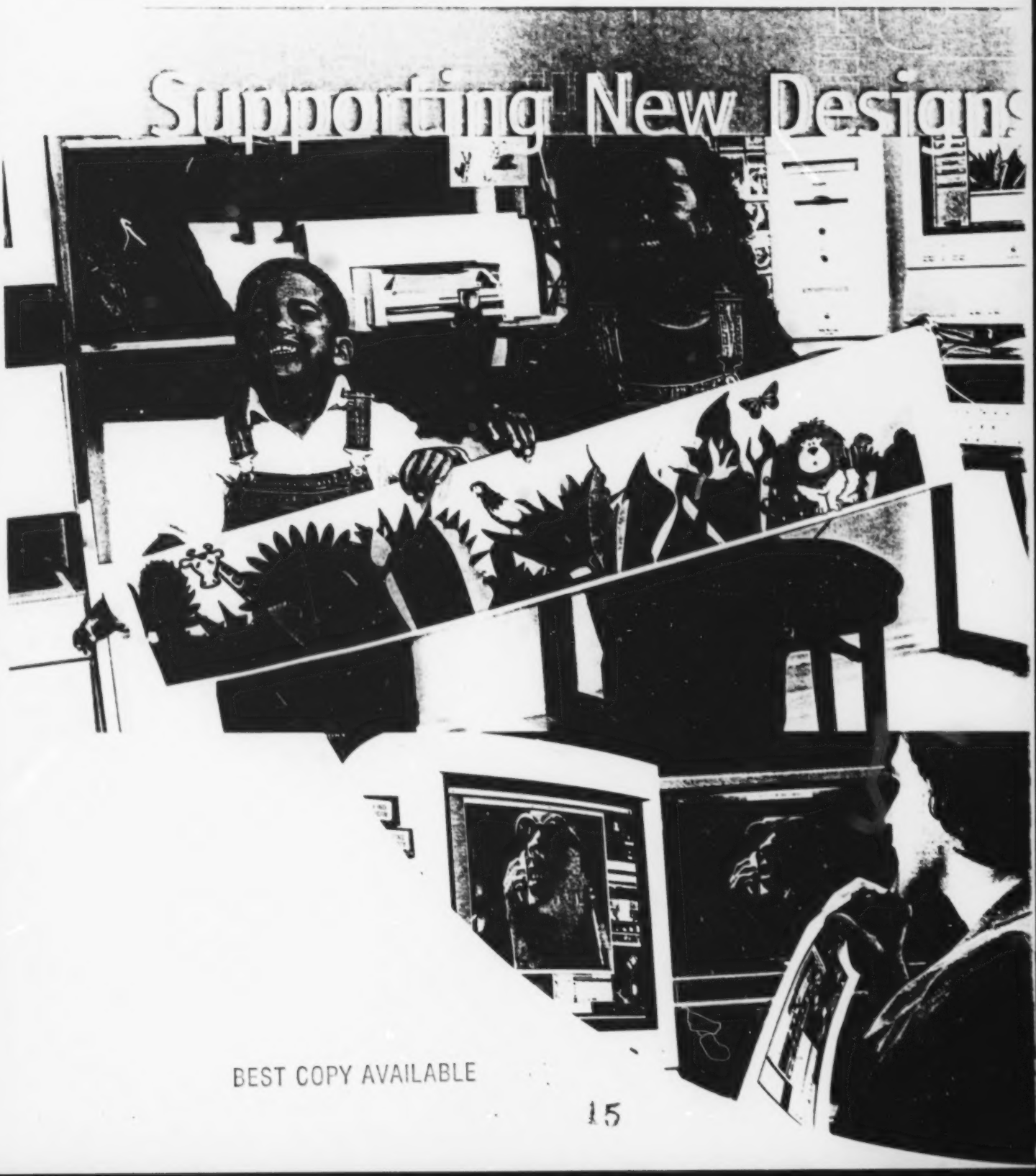
Supporting New Designs



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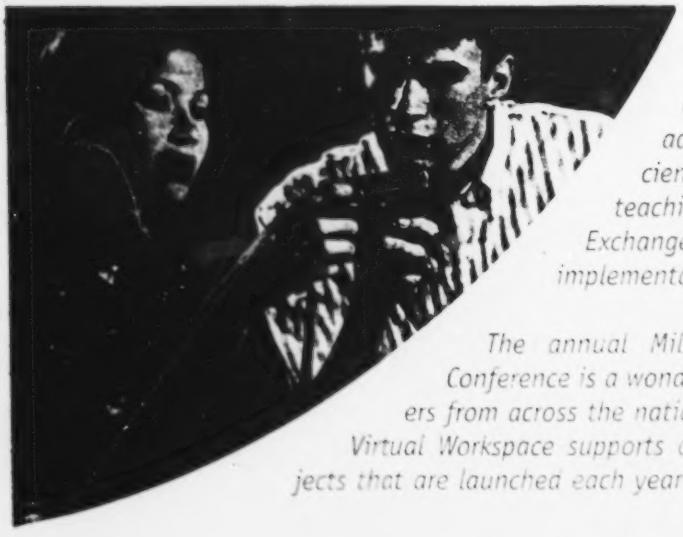
for Teaching and Learn

The Milken Exchange supports new and innovative designs for teaching and learning that use technology to accelerate and enrich the educational experiences of students. This includes new curricular designs, new approaches to professional development, new roles for learners and new ways of teaching that take full advantage of technology and telecommunications.

To this end, the exemplary practices of pioneering educators across the country are highlighted on the Milken Exchange Web site accompanied by reflective commentary and dialogue so that teachers, administrators and parents can gain an understanding of how to apply these practices to their own unique situations. In addition, the Milken Exchange conducts frequent interactive forums centered around critical topics in K-12 learning technology.



A current project of the Milken Exchange is the development of a continuum of professional development competencies for educators. That continuum is being designed to address the competencies, experiences and proficiencies expected of educators as they improve teaching and learning using technology. The Milken Exchange works in partnership with various states in the implementation of its frameworks and models.

The annual Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference is a wonderful opportunity to work with exemplary teachers from across the nation on learning technology. The Milken Educator Virtual Workspace supports online learning academies and curriculum projects that are launched each year at the Conference.

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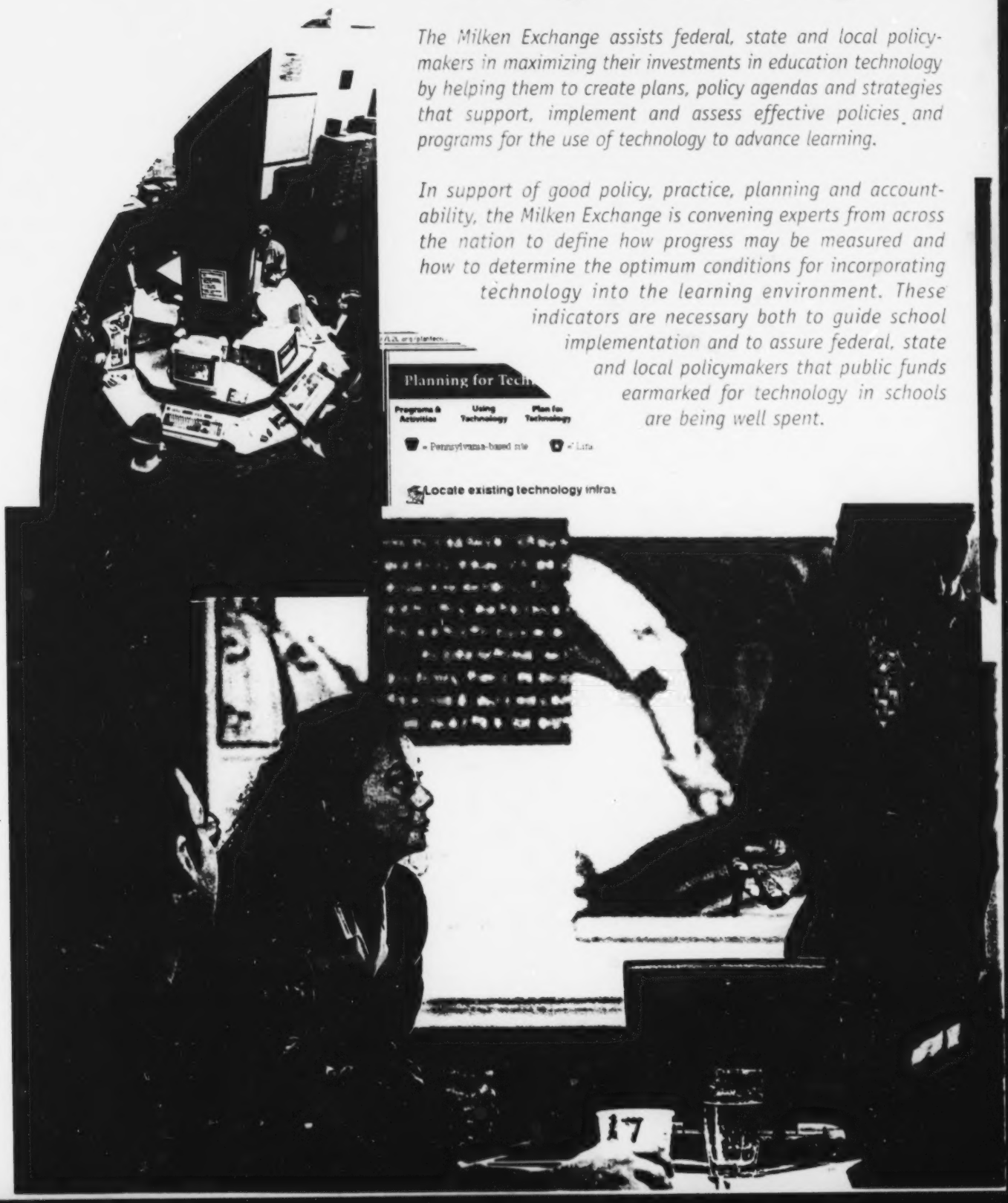
Promoting Continuous Improvement Through Planning

The Milken Exchange assists federal, state and local policymakers in maximizing their investments in education technology by helping them to create plans, policy agendas and strategies that support, implement and assess effective policies and programs for the use of technology to advance learning.

In support of good policy, practice, planning and accountability, the Milken Exchange is convening experts from across the nation to define how progress may be measured and how to determine the optimum conditions for incorporating technology into the learning environment. These indicators are necessary both to guide school implementation and to assure federal, state and local policymakers that public funds earmarked for technology in schools are being well spent.



Informing Practice Through Research

Effective practice requires sound research, and the Milken Exchange is dedicated to promoting the unity, coherence, clarity and utility of the research currently available on education technology. The Milken Exchange's Web site is a major focal point in this regard as it builds toward a national research agenda on education technology.

National Center for Educ
NCES
The Purpose of the Center is to coll
condition and progress of educatior
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General Information About NCES
The National Center for E

The Milken Exchange will be working with key stakeholders from across the nation in establishing, implementing and disseminating this national research agenda. As results are forthcoming, the Milken Exchange will work with decision makers to help translate research findings into sound strategic policy agendas.

In response to concerns expressed by state policymakers about the quality and accuracy of national data on the state of education technology, the Milken Exchange is conducting a state-by-state survey on key indicators of progress in education technology this spring. This is the first large-scale survey that collects data on the qualitative progress school districts are making toward improving educational opportunities for students.

The Milken Exchange is also analyzing promising practices and identifying key components of the most successful technology applications by collecting information on teaching and learning practices in 500 classrooms across the nation.

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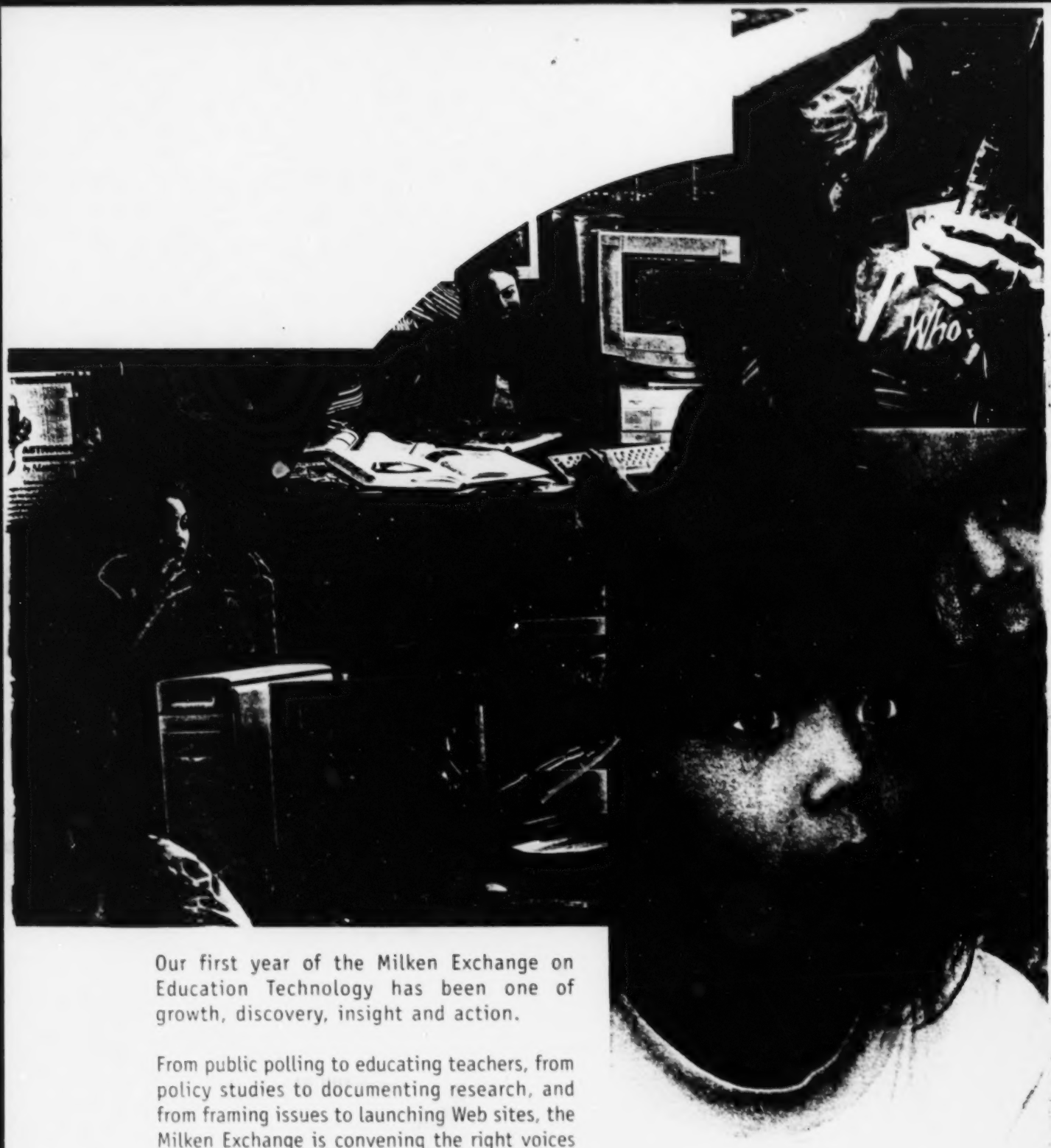

Our first year of the Milken Exchange on Education Technology has been one of growth, discovery, insight and action.

From public polling to educating teachers, from policy studies to documenting research, and from framing issues to launching Web sites, the Milken Exchange is convening the right voices around the right questions.

Watch the Web site (www.milkenexchange.org) for upcoming initiatives.

The Milken Exchange invites you to contact us to collaborate on these and other initiatives. Come explore the possibilities.

CHERYL LEMKE
Executive Director,
Milken Exchange on Education Technology

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